



The selection process

Photo by Staff Sgt. P.J. Farlin, 1 CTCS

Staff Sgt. Patrick Smith, a hydraulics mechanic and Staff Sgt. Dan Melers, both from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. select tools while repairing the main landing gear of a C-17 Globemaster III at Moron Air Base, Spain on Jan. 23. Smith and Melers are working at Moron in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Maintainers pickup pace to support OEF

By Capt. Beth Szucs
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston-based maintainers have been working around the clock to meet the increased demands the war on terrorism has had on CAFB's fleet of C-17s.

The 437th Maintenance and Aircraft Generation Squadrons went into full gear after the Sept. 11 attacks and have been going strong ever since, handling unusual maintenance requirements, usually while short-staffed, ensuring the C-17s are ready to go when needed.

437MXS Fabrication Flight

The 437 MXS Fabrication Flight has spent extra man-hours working on erosion in the main landing gear doors, caused by repeated landings on unimproved runways, according to Chief Master Sgt. Rich Woolverton, Fabrication Flight chief.

"It's very time-consuming," said Woolverton. "It really challenges us because we don't always see these type of repairs."

Woolverton said the maintainers weren't surprised at the erosion and how the landings have affected the doors, since the same type of testing had been done years earlier at China Lake, a dry lake bed in California. The difference is the magnitude of erosions due to how many times the aircraft have landed on unimproved runways before coming back to Charleston for service.

So far, said Woolverton, they have been able to repair nine doors here, which is the preferred fix. After doing some rough calculations, it was determined that the process to repair four doors requires more than 450 man-hours.

He said they have had to completely replace three doors, which is very expensive and even more time-consuming because they have to be trimmed and fitted to the aircraft.

437MXS Maintenance Flight

The 437 MXS Maintenance Flight has also seen a difference since Sept. 11, especially in their home station check inspection and in the wheel and tire shop.

"The biggest change we've had would be our shifts," said Chief Master Sgt. Elton Kelley, Maintenance Flight chief. "We went to a 12-hour shift and activated reservists." He said this has given them the ability to have continuous 24-7 coverage.

This coverage has helped because maintainers are doing more tasks, such as engine filter changes required on all aircraft that have been in austere locations, changing more tires and changing the doors that Fab flight is fixing, said 2nd Lt. Jerry Copeland, Maintenance Flight officer in charge.

They're also working to help other sections with the increased workload and have volunteered to take a few deployment slots from AGS.

See Maintenance, page 3

Charleston personnel prepare for Year of the Warrior Spirit

By 2nd Lt. Jennifer Andrews
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston personnel are gearing up to show their warrior spirit, Air Force heritage and esprit de corps in support of Air Mobility Command's 2002 theme "Year of Warrior Spirit."

"Warrior spirit is all about pride," said Maj. Pat Dowling, 437th Airlift Wing Wing Plans. "The Year of the Warrior Spirit is a great opportunity to appreciate our mobility heritage and to recognize Team Charleston's contributions to our Nation's defense. Every member of Team Charleston is a warrior, and thanks to the tremendous efforts of

our folks, Charleston is making the mobility mission a success and forging history everyday. The YoWS program will be a fun way to celebrate our hard work to preserve freedom."

To celebrate the warrior spirit, activities are being planned throughout the year to include sporting events, esprit de corp gatherings and a nose art contest.

The first sporting event is the Warrior Spirit run, scheduled for Feb. 27 at 11:30 a.m. The run will start in front of the base Fitness Center, where participants can register beginning at 11 a.m. For more information on this event, call Jason Ham at 963-4007.

Additional Warrior Spirit sporting events will begin in March and will encourage squadron and group competition. At the end of the year, the winning unit will receive the Warrior Spirit Cup.

Warrior Fridays will be an ongoing monthly gathering held at the Charleston Club. The idea of the event will be to give personnel the chance to share "war" stories in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Though there isn't a firm date yet for the first Warrior Friday, the 437th Operations Group, who will present a briefing about ongoing operations, will host the event.

For those who aren't into sports or large group see YoWS, page 3

IN THE NEWS

Charleston names 2001 annual award winners



Staff Sgt. Brian Sharman
Airman of the Year



Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Jones
Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



Master Sgt. Michael Garrou
Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year



1st Lt. Joseph Grindrod
Junior Company Grade Officer of the Year



Capt. Todd Groomes
Senior Company Grade Officer of the Year

By Lt. Col. Edmund Memi
437 AW Public Affairs

The deafening cries of "C-E outlaws" could be heard repeatedly as the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron received six of the 10 437th Airlift Wing 2001 annual awards at a banquet Tuesday evening in the Charleston Club.

The historic sweep by the 437 CES included the following awards: Staff Sgt. **Brian Sharman**, airman category; Tech Sgt. **Jeffrey Jones**, NCO category; Master Sgt. **Michael Garrou**, senior NCO category; Master Sgt. **Darl Tremain**, First Sergeant category; **Michael Ruey**, civilian category I; and **Ronald Wiggins**, civilian category III.

Other airmen and civilians winning the "best of the best" honors for the wing were: 1st Lt. **Joseph Grindrod**, 14th Airlift Squadron, Junior Company Grade Officer category; Capt. **Todd Groomes**, 17th Airlift Squadron, but now assigned to the 62nd Airlift Wing at McChord, senior CGO category; Airman 1st Class **Bryan L. Potts**, 437th Logistics Group and now assigned to Korea, honor guard member category; and **George Babcheck**, 437th Maintenance Squadron, civilian category II.

Groomes, a C-17 pilot, had already moved to McChord and was only there a day when he returned to Charleston for the awards ceremony. "I was originally scheduled to PCS to Altus, but when the war kicked off they sent me to McChord instead with a report date of Feb 1. It is an awesome experience to win and I certainly didn't expect it," Groomes said following the ceremony.

Sharman, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, was equally ecstatic about the honor of winning the annual award. "There were a lot of good nominees and it was a great honor. I was surprised," he said. Sharman was an honor guard member, Levitow award winner, deployed to Dover AFB following the 9/11 attacks to x-ray the bodies, and supported numerous presidential and senior state department visits worldwide.

"I just spoke with our commander on the telephone tonight and I told her that I'm not going to work tomorrow because tomorrow can't be any better than today," said Glen Easterby, 437 CES, acting base civil engineer.

The theme of the award banquet was "Celebrating the American Spirit" and included a brief ceremony honoring POW/MIAs with former Vietnam POW retired Col. Willard S. Gideon as the guest speaker.

Gideon, then a new major, was shot down Aug. 7, 1966 flying a F-105D following his 54th bombing mission on a rail yard about 25 miles northeast of Hanoi. He was assigned as the flight commander with the 67th Fighter Squadron, Kadena AB, Japan, but flew most of his missions out of Korat and Takhli AB in Thailand. Badly injured following ejection, he spent more than six years and seven months as a POW until his release March 4, 1973. He retired from the Air Force and lives in Mount Pleasant, S.C., with his wife Jeannine.

"What a wonderful theme you have chosen for your event tonight, celebrating the American spirit," said Gideon. "This is the very same spirit, pride and patriotism that has kept our country in a position of leadership since 1776. You can see that spirit on the rise today, but I have one small concern that some of this may be false patriotism."

He explained that in the last few years there were many instances where our servicemembers lost their lives. "We had barracks, embassies, naval ships bombed and you did not see this patri-

otic spirit sweep the country like it has today," he cautioned. "It certainly was not there when I was in Vietnam. Perhaps, we had to be attacked on our own soil to come to grips with what we have to deal with."

"Conflicts are not scheduled like a football game and they are going to come when and where an enemy sees a weakness in us," he said about the importance of readiness. He recounted his experience in Vietnam when shot down as part of a four-ship flight of F-105Ds.

"I was the number three. Our number two man was a brand new lieutenant on his first mission and he was flying a little closer to the lead than he should have and thought he was hit and jettisoned his bombs and left, headed in the wrong direction. I pressed on, dropped my bombs on target and went after him. I made my mistake then as I was chasing him and was not paying attention to where I was and flew over one of the busiest North Vietnamese airfields at about 5,000 feet and moving fast. Big 85 mm guns surrounded the field and flak was breaking all around. All of a sudden it felt like the Jolly Green giant had stepped out of nowhere, grabbed my airplane by the tail, and was shaking it. Then the aircraft began to corkscrew, I started to pass out, and my last thought was to eject."

He broke his leg and injured his head. He had hit something hard on the ground but doesn't remember much from that first week or two, but does remember waking up in a cell.

"I was taken by ox cart and was thrown into isolation and that is perhaps the toughest, demanding and frightening part of the whole experience," Gideon said. "As a POW, you enter a new phase and will have to confront the enemy daily and on his terms in many different ways. You have no moral support and you really don't know what to expect and are in a state of shock. You have nothing to rely upon but yourself and the training that you had."

He spoke about the code of conduct, its importance and the challenges they faced in living up to it. "In 1969, in the camp that I was in, two men did escape and were captured the next day. The Vietnamese were furious and went on a wild rampage of torture, one of those men was killed, and many others were scarred for life."

He credits what kept him going was simply a very strong belief that eventually the U.S. would get the POWs out of there. "The North Vietnamese knew it and that is why they kept us alive, to use us for negotiations. These days you don't hear too many kind words about President Nixon, but when he made the decision to blockade Haiphong harbor and send in those pretty B-52s up North. He became my hero."

"When you think about the American spirit today with those we have captured and keep at Guantanamo Bay. No government will even admit they belong to them and make any effort to get them back. I guess that is what makes a suicidal terrorist. Years ago when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, we had a return address. I hope the American people do not become discouraged."

Gideon thanked each nominee and explained that all of them were winners. Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, echoed Gideon's praise for the nominees and announced to the audience that the 437th CES had also been named as the best CES in the Air Force. He stated the teamwork between both wings is what makes everyone a winner.



Airman 1st Class Bryan Potts
Honor Guard member of the Year
Award was accepted by Monica Potts on behalf of her husband



Master Sgt. Darl Tremain
First Sergeant of the Year



Michael Ruey
Civilian Category I



George Babcheck
Civilian Category II



Ronald Wiggins
Civilian Category III

Black History Month opening ceremony today

By Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

Charleston AFB kicks off its celebration of Black History Month with a luncheon today, 11 a.m., in the Charleston Club.

"It's going to be a very simple ceremony," said Master Sgt. Terry Grant, 300th Airlift Squadron first sergeant and Black History Month opening ceremony coordinator. "We just want to make people aware of African-American heritage, our contributions to this country and the struggles we've been through."

The ceremony will feature guest speaker Col. Clarence Johnson, director, Military Equal Opportunity Policy, in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon, according to Grant.

Another feature at the luncheon will be computer screens displaying facts about prominent African-Americans and the strides they have made over the years, Grant said. More than 100 facts will be available.

Grant said while the scope of the ceremony may be simple, the program is definitely educational.

"All we're trying to say is there's a place in this country's history where African-Americans went through struggles to help build the country into what it is today," Grant said. "Are we trying to push ourselves in front of any other group? No. We're just a part of this great country we call the United States of America."

Grant emphasized that only through unity can the nation stand against the challenges it faces today.

"The opportunity and freedom in this country are totally undeniable," Grant said. "We all have to come together to protect the way of life that we enjoy."

Grant spoke about the unique nature of the country, with its diversity of race, heritage and ethnicity. He said he believes other countries that aren't diverse have an easier time being unified against common enemies, but that it can be easy for this nation to stand together too.

"We have to find at the bottom line

something we can all relate to so we can protect what we have," Grant said. "If we allow our differences to get in our way, we all have lost."

Black History Month has its roots in "Negro History Week," first established in 1926, according to, www.infoplease.com, the Learning Network's Web-site.

Black History Month, and the study of black history in general, are attributed to Dr. Carter Woodson. A son of former slaves, Woodson spent his childhood working in the coal mines and enrolled in high school at age 20, according to the site. Within two years, he graduated and went on to earn a doctorate from Harvard.

While Woodson was in school, he was disturbed to find that history books mostly ignored the black American population, according to the site. Acting on his ambitions, Woodson took on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history.

In 1915, he established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life

and History.

In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

According to the site, he chose the second week in February because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the black population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

Many other events that significantly affected black Americans also occurred in February.

Among them are W.E.B. DuBois, a civil rights leader and co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, born Feb. 23, 1868. The 15th Amendment, granting blacks the right to vote, was passed Feb. 3, 1870. Hiram Revels, the first black U.S. senator, took his oath of office Feb. 25, 1870. On Feb. 12, 1909, the NAACP was founded, and Malcolm X, the militant leader who promoted Black Nationalism, was shot to death Feb. 21, 1965.

C-17 upkeep

Tech. Sgt. Jose Torres, a jet engine mechanic from Charleston Air Force Base, S.C., performs routine maintenance on a C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft at Moron Air Base, Spain. Torres is deployed to Moron in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. P.J. Farlin)

YOWS

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gatherings, the nose art competition offers individuals the opportunity to show their talent.

Artists can win the chance to have their art painted on a jet. Nose art contest designs must be submitted on paper and reflect the heritage and history of Charleston. One winner will be picked from the base and sent to AMC. If chosen at AMC level, the work will possibly be painted on an aircraft.

AMC YoWS dog tag coins are available and can be purchased for \$5 from your squadron representative.

Some of our warriors will be recog-

nized with an Air Mobility Warrior gold coin. The new award is part of AMC's Warrior Spirit campaign and is sponsored by the AMC Director of Operations. The award recognizes airmen and civilians of all ranks who exemplify the warrior spirit by both their attitude and actions.

"We are going to kick off our Year of the Warrior Spirit activities with a Warrior Run later this month, and our YoWS committee has superbly developed a diversified program that offers something for everyone," said Lt. Col. Paul Braunbeck, director of the 437 AW Wing Staff. "The monthly activities will be a fun way to showcase our heritage, esprit de corps and professionalism."

Maintenance

continued from page 1

"There's been great coordination between units since Sept. 11," Copeland said.

"Our standard time before (to complete an HSC) was three days for a normal HSC, and when you had a refurbishment we would add an extra day," said Kelley. "Now we just do it as quickly as possible." He said that having continuous coverage has prevented shift change delays and enabled them to complete the process in almost half the time as before.

"The sense of urgency has been super," said Kelley. "When an aircraft comes in here it is like ants swarming a hill. Everyone rushes to get to work."

Wheel and Tire Shop

The wheel and tire shop has seen an increase in the number of tires it has had to rebuild compared to last year at this time. According to maintenance flight statistics, since Sept. 11, the shop has built up 1,022 C-17 main and nose landing gear wheel/tire assemblies, a 200 percent increase over the same period the preceding year.

"Each tire takes four to five hours a piece," said Senior Master Sgt. Don Hagen, HSC superintendent. "There is no deployed location to fix C-17 tires, so they are all getting shipped back here. They are working really hard and the support to home station and our deployed aircraft has been outstanding."

Lt. Col. Herb Phillips, 437

MXS commander, said "The men and women of the maintenance squadron have definitely risen to the challenges associated with the high ops tempo of Operation Enduring Freedom. Their mission focus and support to the flightline has been outstanding across the board. I couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments."

437th Aircraft Generation Squadron

The AGS has also been keeping busy with some unusual repairs to the C-17.

"We've had three aircraft land at Charleston Air Force Base which we have had to replace every single antenna on the bottom of the aircraft," said Capt. Randy Ackerman, Shark Sortie Generation

Flight commander. "It costs roughly \$37,000 and takes 11 man-hours to replace all the antennas on just one aircraft. This doesn't include the amount of time it takes to let the sealant cure, that could take up to one to two days."

AGS has deployed a large portion of their squadron, but are getting needed help from activated reservists, said Ackerman. He explained that they have finished their deployment phase of the war, and are now in the sustainment mode.

"At the onset of the war our main focus was moving our people and equipment to the deployed locations," said Ackerman. "Since then our focus has shifted to a two-fold mindset; not only getting the aircraft ready to head back

overseas, but also making them available for local training missions."

"I could not be more proud of these maintainers, both active duty and reservists—what they've done as a team had been absolutely incredible," said Maj. Gerald Frederick, 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron commander. "From Sept. 11 on, they've beaten every challenge that's been thrown at them—from incredible ops tempo supporting both our C-17s and McChord's to a series of 8 hour advance notice deployments. And they've done it safely without a single gripe. These folks are easily the finest group of maintainers I've ever been privileged enough to serve with."

NEWS BRIEFS

Charleston Warrior of the Week

Tech. Sgt. Johnson Freeman 315th Maintenance Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Johnson Freeman is a structural repair technician with the 315th Maintenance Squadron.

He is an Air Reserve Technician who was activated for a period of one year in October to augment the 437 MXS. Normally he wears civilian clothes during the week and a uniform on the weekend. Now Freeman wears a uniform during the week and is deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to an undisclosed forward operating location for up to 179 days.

His duties include structural repair of the C-17 Globemaster III. "We do structural repair, sheet metal work," said Freeman. "We do composite repairs and tubing repairs like hydraulic and oxygen lines. We also do corrosion preventive maintenance like painting."

The Hanahan native has many years serving his country.

"I went to boot camp in January 1976 with the Army National Guard," said Freeman. "I spent four years in the guard and got

hired on with the 315 MXS in October 1980 and went full time in 1984. I have spent over 26 years here."

Freeman is a volunteer who enjoys his job and wants to be part of something bigger.

"It doesn't matter if we are wearing wrangler jeans or BDUs we constantly interact with the active duty side," said Freeman. "I accept this as a challenge and look forward to it. I'm thankful to my compatriots in the 437th that give me a chance to do something like this. It gives the Reserves a chance to step forward and show the true Team Charleston concept."

Freeman is single and divides his time between his two children and his hobbies.

"I love to hunt and fish," said Freeman. "I also love to study genealogy and have traced my roots back to my great-great grandfather who fought for Gen. Francis Marion in the Charleston area during the Revolutionary War."



Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Murphy

Spotlight

Black History Month: The opening ceremony of Black History Month is scheduled for today, 11 a.m., at the Charleston Club. The guest speaker will be Col. Clarence Johnson, director of military equal opportunity. For more information, call Master Sgt. Terry Grant at 963-2445.

Induction ceremony: The 2002 Chiefs' Induction Ceremony will be held Saturday, 6 p.m., at the Charleston Club. All chief master sergeant selectees for 2002 will be honored. Chiefs and squadron commanders are invited, and spouses are welcome. Attendees may invite as many guests as desired. Cost is \$20 per person. Dress for the evening is mess dress or semi-formal. For more information or to RSVP, call Staff Sgt. Julie Buie at 963-5497.

National Prayer luncheon: The 50th National Prayer Luncheon will be held Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m., at the Charleston Club. Scheduled to speak is Chaplain (Col.) Charles Locklin, Air Mobility Command Chaplain. The luncheon costs \$5 for club members and \$7 for non-members. For more information or for tickets, contact a first sergeant or call the Base Chapel at 963-2536.

Around the base

Valentine's baskets: The 437th Communication Squadron's Booster Club is selling Valentine's Day baskets for a booster club fundraiser. The bas-

kets include conversation hearts, chocolate lips, chocolate-peanut butter hearts, heart-shaped suckers, Hershey kisses and two votive rose candles. The \$5 cost per basket also includes a short message and on-base (including housing and Hunley Park) delivery.

To order, contact Airman 1st Class Maria Mroczek at 963-3485 or Airman 1st Class Patrick Martin at 963-2973. Orders may also be e-mailed to maria.mroczek@charleston.af.mil or patrick.martin@charleston.af.mil. E-mail orders should include the buyer's name and phone number, the name of the person receiving the basket, their building and office number, or, if a residence, the street address. E-mail orders should also include a short message of no more than four lines. Orders will be accepted between now and Feb. 11.

Chiefs' Group: The Charleston AFB Chiefs' Group will hold its monthly meeting Feb. 21, 11 a.m., in the Charleston Club. Representatives from Bank of America will address the group and lunch will be provided. All chiefs and chief-selectees are eligible to attend.

CSAF survey: The Air Force chief of staff wants to know what changes Air Force people want in their organizations, and what those people think of the leaders they work for, from the squadron level through higher headquarters. To find out, the Chief of Staff survey is going on now. Air

Force members may go to <http://csafsurvey.af.mil/> from a government computer or to www.csafsurvey.com from a home computer to complete the survey now-Mar. 8. The process takes about 45 minutes to complete, and surveys started on the .com site must be completed on the .com site.

OSA scholarship: The Officers' Spouses' Association is offering the Silver Wings Scholastic Assistance Awards to dependents of both officers and enlisted members stationed at Charleston AFB. Also eligible are those living in the Charleston area who are dependents of active duty members stationed elsewhere. Scholarships are available for both high school seniors and military spouses attending college. Applications are available at the Community Education and Family Support Centers and must be postmarked by Feb. 25 for consideration. For more information, call Ruth King at 207-9686.

ESC scholarship: The Enlisted Support Club is offering their Scholarship Assistance Awards to graduating high school seniors who are dependents of enlisted military members stationed at Charleston AFB. Applications are available at the Family Support Center and must be turned in by Feb. 25. For more information, call Amanda Ambrose at 963-5780 or Crystal Hampton at 207-0123.

Hunters: Due to increased secu-

rity, the hunting program at North Auxiliary Air Field has been suspended until further notice. Individuals who purchased hunting permits for this program are eligible to have their permit fees refunded. For more information, call the 437th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Office at 963-4976, or visit the office on the first floor of Bldg. 247.

AFAS grant: The Air Force Aid Society's General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant awards \$1,500 grants to children of active-duty members, Title 10 Active Guard Reserve or Reserve members, Title 32 AGR performing full-time active duty, retired military members, retired reservists with 20 or more qualifying years of service and deceased Air Force members; spouses (residing stateside) of active-duty or Title 10 AGR/Reserve members on extended active duty; and surviving spouses of deceased members. For more information or to receive an application, call the AFAS office at 963-4406, or visit the Family Support Center. Additional information is also available online at www.afas.org.

Supply: The 437th Supply Squadron Customer Service Center is the point of contact for unit supply needs. The center researches national stock numbers, issues SATS cards and checks the status of particular items. For more information, call 963-4826.

DRMO: The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office can help meet mission requirements. All Department of Defense organizations can screen free, excess assets at www.drms.dla.mil. For more information, call 963-4826.

Family Support Center

Pre-deployment Briefing: Monday, Feb. 11 and 25, 8-8:30 a.m., and Thursday, Feb. 14 and 21, 4-4:30 p.m.

Jr. Smooth Move: Tuesday, 6-6:30 p.m.

Sponsorship Training: Wednesday, 8:30-9:30 a.m., and Feb. 20, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Resume I: Wednesday, 9-10:30 a.m.
Newcomer's Tour: Thursday, 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m.

Positive Attitude, Positive Health: Thursday, 1-2:30 p.m.

Troops-to-Teachers: Feb. 11, 10-11 a.m.

TAP 3-day Workshop: Feb. 12-14, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Educational Opportunity Counseling: Feb. 12, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mini Job Fair/Employers Panel: Feb. 14, 2-4 p.m.

Marriage Enrichment Part I: Feb. 21, 6-8 p.m.

Resume II: Feb. 26, 9-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-noon.

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For more information or to register, call the Family Support Center at 963-4406.

COMMENTARY

About the paper

AIRLIFT
Dispatch

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Senior Leaders visit Team Charleston

By Karl Young

437 AW vice commander

We recently hosted a visit from Maj. Gen. John Becker, 15th Air Force commander, for a visit Jan. 25 through Sunday. General Becker was here to receive senior officer Night Vision Goggle training for C-17 aircrew members. He received a number of briefings and a demonstration of our capabilities during a C-17 flight. He had a lot of good feedback about our aircrew members and had a number of good discussions about the challenges we face in the war on terrorism.

There have been a number of changes in our requirements to conduct annual Suicide Prevention Training. In the past, we were able to provide annual computer based training, but we now must brief our workforce instead. The Air Force has found that personal briefings carry much more impact with the workforce and are more effective in stemming the Air Force increase in suicide attempts. The briefing should make the workforce more aware of their co-workers, make it easier to spot problems and make sure they get the help they need.

Fortunately, Charleston AFB has not had an active-duty member commit suicide since 1995; however, we can't rest on our past successes and I will need everyone's cooperation in scheduling this annual briefing. The briefing should only take about 30 minutes and can be tagged onto squadron meetings and commander's calls. Please have your squadron representative contact Lt. Col. (Dr.) Frank Budd or Master Sgt. Peggy Patterson at 963-6852 to schedule this briefing for your unit.

The base-chaplain office also conducts special intervention training for commanders, first sergeants, supervisors and co-workers who might be expected to intervene and perhaps prevent someone from committing suicide. The training is called the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, or ASIST program. The course takes about two days. The Air Mobility Command goal is to train about 10 percent of our people. Chaplain (Capt.) John Shipman is the base point of contact for this training and may be reached at 963-2536.

The annual awards banquet was a huge success Tuesday evening and my congratulations to each of the award recipients as named in the article on page 2. A special thanks to our guest speaker and former Vietnam prisoner of war, retired Col. William Gideon. The theme of this year's banquet was "Celebrating the American Spirit" and I was pleased to see plenty of squadron and group pride shown during

the evening's festivities.

I also want to congratulate our February promotees during Thursday's monthly promotion ceremony. Certainly, promotion is a significant milestone in anyone's military career. Congratulations again for your achievement.

Air University Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Bruch returns to Charleston as our guest speaker for the 2002 Chief's Induction Ceremony Feb. 2 at 6 p.m. in the Charleston Club. If you have not had the chance to participate in a chief's induction ceremony, then you should not miss this opportunity. The induction ceremony will honor all 2002 chief master sergeant selectees and is a ceremony that distinguishes us from our civilian counterparts. It is a great event and one well worth attending!

We were fortunate to get Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart, commander in chief of U.S. Space Command, as our guest speaker for our kickoff luncheon for the Charleston chapter of the Air Force Association on Feb. 6 at noon in the Charleston Club. General Eberhart was in the Charleston area as a guest speaker for the National Defense Industrial Association Science and Engineering Technology Conference at the Charleston Area Convention Center. We expect a large turnout for this AFA luncheon and it is a great opportunity to

hear one of our senior leader's speak. The cost is only \$9 and you can call 963-2200 to make your reservation.

We hosted Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire, Chief of the Air Staff, Royal Air Force and Lt. Gen. Glen Moorhead, vice commander of Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe and some of their staff for an orientation flight on one of the C-17s Wednesday. Although a short visit, it was a unique opportunity to highlight our outstanding aircrews and C-17 mission to the United Kingdom and the leadership at USAFE.

We will hold our opening luncheon for Black History Month today in the Charleston Club at 11 a.m. The guest speaker for the luncheon is Col. Clarence Johnson, director of Military Equal Opportunity Policy.

See the article on page 3 for more details.

On Sunday, we have a great Superbowl party in the club starting at 3 p.m. with a "Hotdog and Burger Bash." Burgers and hotdogs with all the fixins and French fries, for \$2 until 5:50 p.m. Kick off is at 5:30 p.m.

There will be door prizes during the game and stick around after the game to see if you are the lucky winner of the 36" Flat Screen Sony television. Winner need not be present to win.

I encourage everyone to come out to watch the St. Louis Rams win. Stay safe this weekend.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Clements

437th Airlift Wing vice commander Karl Young greets Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire, Chief of the Air Staff, Royal Air Force, upon the British officers arrival at CAFB Wednesday.

Action Line

The Commander's Action line is your direct link to me. It's your opportunity to make Charleston Air Force Base a better place to live, work and play.

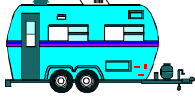
First give the appropriate base agency a chance to solve the problem, but if you don't get a satisfactory answer, call me at **963-5581** or send an e-mail to action@charleston.af.mil.

To ensure you receive a response to your concerns, please leave your name and the information needed to contact you.



Commonly used phone numbers

Base Exchange 552-5000	Medical Group 963-6700
Charleston Club 963-3914	Security Forces 963-3611
Commissary 963-5695	Billeting 552-9900
Education Office 963-4573	Fitness Center 963-3347
Family Support 963-4406	Finance 963-3700
Housing Office 963-3859	Legal 963-5502



Off duty--Around town



Sports:

Stingrays: Tonight, 7:30 p.m., vs. Augusta, and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., vs. Greenville. For more information, call 554-6060.

Lowgators: Thursday, 7 p.m., vs. Columbus. For more information, call 764-4013 or 416-1162.

All-Academy Wrestling Championships: Saturday, 10 a.m. at The Citadel. Participating schools will be The Citadel, Norwich University, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and Virginia Military Institute. Admission fee is \$5. For more information, call 953-4865 or 953-4806.

Entertainment:

Theater: Footlight Players present "Master Class," Terrence McNalley's Tony Award-winning play, tonight and Saturday, 2 and 8 p.m. Performances take place in the Footlight Players Theatre at 20 Queen St. Call 722-4487 for tickets.

Dance show: Charleston Southern University presents "Step Show," high energy dances performed by student groups, Saturday, 8 p.m., at Lightsey Chapel Auditorium. The show is free. For more information, call 863-8031

Concert: Vocalists Jennifer Luiken and Dr. Jill Lewis perform art songs and operatic arias Sunday, 3 p.m., at Lightsey Chapel Auditorium on the Charleston Southern University campus. The concert is free. For more information, call 863-7966.

Concert: The Noel Freidline Quintet performs acoustic jazz Sunday, 3 p.m., at the Boardwalk, adjacent to the Beach and Tennis Resort, Folly

Field Road, Hilton Head. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 842-HHJS.

Events:

Art: Angela Mack leads a talk on the exhibit "Colorblind? The African-American Image in the '30s and '40s" today, 12:30 p.m., at Gibbes Museum, 135 Meeting St. For more information, call 722-2706.

Whale of a sale: Find bargains from \$15 sofas to 50 cent kitchenware gadgets Saturday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Charleston Area Convention Center. Parking is \$4. A free CARTA shuttle will run from the Visitors Center, 375 Meeting St., every hour, 6 a.m.-1 p.m. Call Junior League of Charleston at 763-5284 for more information.

African-American Archeology: Walk through more than 200 years of African-American settlement history at Charleston Museum's Dill Sanctuary on James Island Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Cost is \$10 for non-members and \$5 for members. Craft activities will be available for children. Reservations are required. For more information, call 722-2996, ext. 235.

Coin show: Lowcountry Coin Club holds its annual two-day coin show, with more than 35 dealers, Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Radisson Inn on the corner of Rivers and Aviation avenues. The event is free. For more information, call 747-0805.

Chocolates and Camellias Festival: Cypress Gardens offers an old-fashioned taffy pull, educational exhibits, wax camellia demonstrations and more Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Cypress Gardens, 3030 Cypress Gardens Rd., Moncks Corner. Admission to the gardens covers the cost of the event. For more information, call 553-0515.

Listings are published on a space-available basis at the discretion of the editor of the Airlift Dispatch. Events listed are subject to change without notice. Those interested in attending an event should call ahead to confirm the date and time. To submit an event for Off duty, send a fax with pertinent information and POC to 963-5604.

FEATURE



Senior Airman Chris Stitely, TMDE technician, checks and verifies the output power of a synthesized sweeper with a spectrum analyzer.

TMDE flight keeps measurements right on the money

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Melanie Streeter
437 AW Public Affairs

All of the equipment on base that takes a precise measurement of any kind, from the scales used in the orderly room for weigh-ins to a synthesized sweeper, passes through the double doors of Charleston AFB's Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Flight to be calibrated.

According to Master Sgt. William Seabreeze, TMDE section chief, the shop performs calibration on dimensional, mechanical, optical, electronic and radiac test, measurement and diagnostic equipment.

"The equipment we support touches every organization on Charleston AFB, tenant units including the Coast Guard, Navy and National Guard, as well as other geographically separated units in locations from the Caribbean to Central and South America," Seabreeze said. "We are currently the Air Force depot support location for night vision goggle test sets, east coast support location for portable balance units, and we provide lateral support across the command (Air Mobility Command) for high-voltage calibration measurement."

The shop is currently staffed by 16 military members and one civilian, according to Seabreeze. Annually, TMDE technicians complete approximately 4,700 maintenance actions, supporting 4,000 pieces of equipment. That equipment is valued at \$128 million and comes from 123 workcenters and customers.

Building 707, where the laboratory is located, is capable of providing tightly controlled environmental requirements, according to Seabreeze. These environmental controls maintain proper levels of temperature, humidity and dust levels to sustain a clean, stable environment to perform calibration.

The calibration equipment used in the shop is valued at more than \$5 million, Seabreeze said.

Staff Sgt. David Polmanteer, TMDE technician, said most people on base probably know the lab from its stickers on the scales in orderly rooms used for weigh-ins.

"Most people probably don't even know those are calibrated," Polmanteer said.

Senior Airman Amanda Fountain, another shop technician, mentioned another common misunderstanding.

"We don't just do torque wrenches," she said.

Every part on the C-17 needs maintaining. That maintaining requires testing by equipment held to a standard. The TMDE shop ensures that no matter what piece of test equipment, meter or scale a technician uses, a volt is a volt, a watt is a watt and a pound is a pound.



Stitely attaches a cable to a synthesized sweeper, connecting it to the spectrum analyzer. TMDE personnel are responsible for calibrating a variety of equipment, from the complex synthesizer to the simple weight scale.



Staff Sgt. David Polmanteer, TMDE technician, and Stitely verify the time base of a synthesized sweeper.

Chapel schedule



107 Arthur Drive

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Phone: 963-2536. After duty hours, call the command post at 963-2531 for emergencies only.

Catholic Services

Saturday -- 4 p.m. Reconciliation, 5 p.m. Mass.

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Mass, 9:30 a.m. Children's Church.

Weekdays -- 11:30 a.m. Mass, Sacrament of Baptism pre-baptismal classes are held the first Sunday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Chapel Annex. For Sacrament of Marriage, call the Catholic chaplain six months prior to the wedding.

Protestant Services

Sunday -- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School in Bldg. 245, 11 a.m. Traditional Worship Service, 11 a.m. Children's Church.

Thursday -- 7 p.m. Praise and Worship contemporary service.

Buddhist: Columbia Shambhala Meditation Center, Suite 109, Columbia, S.C. 29405. Phone: (803) 254-9048.

Orthodox: Holy Trinity, Greek Orthodox Church, 30 Race St., Charleston, S.C. Phone: 577-2063.

Jewish: Call Jewish Lay Leader: Senior Airman David Winner at 963-2676.

Islamic: Al-Jami Ar-Rasheed, 1998 Hugo Ave., Charleston Heights, S.C. Phone: 554-1773.

Movie schedule

Admission prices:

Adults/Children -- 99 cents

Any child under 17 years of age requires a parent or adult guardian (21 years old) to purchase an admission ticket for the minor child to view R-rated movies. The ticket office opens 30 minutes prior to start of movie, unless otherwise noted.



Movie schedules are provided by AAFES. Patrons should call 963-3333 to verify movie titles, running times and start times, which are subject to change.

Today, 7:30 p.m.

***"Joe Somebody"* – Tim Allen**

Everybody wants to be somebody and Joe is no exception. But he feels like he's a nobody. He has been passed over for promotion and is faring no better in his personal life. Joe is determined to show everybody that this one-time nobody is now a somebody to be reckoned with. **(PG) 98 minutes**

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.

***"The Majestic"* – Jim Carrey**

Set in 1951, a blacklisted writer (accused of being a Communist) loses his memory in a car accident and ends up with a new life in a small town, mistaken as a soldier who died in World War II. **(PG) 152 minutes**

Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.

***"How High"* – Method Man, Redman**

Desperate to diversify the student body, Chancellor Huntley lures Jamal and Silas to Harvard. Ivy League ways are strange, but Silas and Jamal take it in stride. Their exuberant personalities, however, clash with conservative Dean Cain. Dean Cain sets out to discredit Chancellor Huntley's decision to recruit the duo. Silas and Jamal get into the swing of campus life and even fall in love. **(R) 94 minutes**

Fitness & Sports

Intramural basketball tips off

**Story and photo by
Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones**
437 AW Public Affairs

It's basketball time at Charleston AFB!

Intramural basketball tipped off last week at the sports and fitness center and this year's schedule features 12 teams.

Each team will play every team at least one time, and then there will be four additional games for a total of 15 games, which will all be played on the Starlifter Court. The season will run until late March.

Last year's champion, 437 MXS, is looking to take the title again.

According to 437 MXS assistant coach, Michael Brandon, it should be a competitive year.

"There are lots of good teams this year. We will not underestimate anyone. Supply used to be our only competition, but I think our team is better this year than last year," he said. "We only lost one valuable player from last year and we still have 9 or 10 strong players. I think we will win the championship

again."

437th Supply coach, Derrick Walden, said this could be a rebuilding year for them.

"We are a young team with some new guys. Once we work out the kinks and gel together, we will be a contender," he said. "I compare us to the Wizards. Look what Michael Jordan did for them. They started out slow, but now are playing some good ball."

Also looking tough (or talking tough) is the 437 AGS team.

Frederick Burton said, "We are the favorites. Quite frankly, I don't think we have any competition out here. We are coming after MXS and the championship trophy."

Another 437 AGS player, Calvin "The 3-Point Legend" Conliffe, said, "we are clearly the team to beat. Just ask Supply. We own them and MXS. Any team that thinks they can hang with us is going to get drubbed."

If you want to see some fast-paced action, come out to the sports and fitness center and cheer your team on.



Denny Garrison, 437 APS, drives past Kevin Sealy and Randall Jordan (#12), both of the 437 OSS, during a game Monday night. APS won the game 57-42.

Command cautions against the use of dietary supplement

Air Mobility Command is warning airmen of potential life-threatening side effects from the use of some dietary supplements.

Lt. Gen. Ronald C. Marcotte, vice commander for AMC, released this warning, Jan. 24, which cautions airmen about using dietary supplements and other substances containing Ephedrine without first consulting a physician.

Ephedrine and similar products are marketed for weight loss, to boost energy and to enhance athletic performance. Col. (Dr.) Judith Varnau, chief of professional services, with the AMC Surgeon General's Office explains that the drug stimulates the central nervous and cardiovascular systems and can cause high blood pressure, heart irregularities, stroke, heart attack, seizures, and even death.

Varnau said that since 1994 the Federal Drug Administration has investigated more than 800 reports of adverse effects, including 44 deaths, associated with products containing the substance Ephedrine. Other common names used for this substance are Ma Huang, Chinese Ephedra Extract, Epitonin and herbs of the genus Ephedra.

"We encourage commanders at all levels to proactively educate their people about current Air Force

and command precautions regarding the use of herbal supplements as well as controlled substances," said Varnau. "These drugs can ruin an Air Force career, or worse, have fatal results."

AMC officials warn that many of these products can be very dangerous to health or compromise the mobility mission.

"People on flying status must receive approval by local flight medicine before use of any of these types of products," says Lt. Col. (Dr.) David M. O'Brien, chief of AMC Flight Medicine. "Special operations people and members on the Personnel Reliability Program must also report use of any nutritional supplements to their medical care providers for approval."

Products containing Ephedrine are readily available at base exchanges, commissaries and many off-base stores. AMC personnel using these products are encouraged to consult their medical care provider before using these or similar substances.

More information about the use of alternative medicine can be found at wwwsam.brooks.af.mil/web/af/altmed/HOMEFRAME.htm or by calling the command's Surgeon General's Office at (618) 229-6305 or DSN 779-6305.

ALS class 02-C bowls for dollars

By Senior Airman Jason Smith
437 AW Public Affairs

Airman Leadership School Class 02-C held a bowl-a-thon at Charleston AFB's Starlifter Lanes Jan. 25 as a fundraiser to offset their graduation costs.

Class members planned the event in conjunction with the more traditional donut sale that many ALS classes have used in the past.

According to Senior Airman Jonathan Connor, Class 02-C A-Flight commander and 437th Aerial Port Squadron member, the class needs to raise more than \$500 to pay for their graduation meals Feb. 7.

"The idea for the bowl-a-thon came up at a meeting we were having to discuss fundraiser ideas," said Connor. "We wanted to try something different than the classes before us, and at the same time, we wanted to raise enough money to limit our out-of-pocket expenses."

The event worked like any other sponsorship program, according to Senior Airman Michael Kennedy, Class 02-C bowl-a-thon chairman and 437th Security Forces Squadron member, but instead of jogging, the class knocked down pins to earn cash from sponsors.

"Class members found sponsors to either pledge a per-pin amount or give a one-time donation," said Kennedy. "It was a huge success. We raised over \$486. A lot of people around the base helped out and we'd like to thank them."

Rivalry and camaraderie surfacing at the same time made the event a big success, said Sanchez. The class has been learning about teamwork since day one, and now in their fourth week, the transformation from 36 individuals to one team was apparent at the bowl-a-thon.

"The class wasn't totally sold on the idea of a bowl-a-thon at first," Sanchez said. "We discussed it early on before we all knew each other. After a couple weeks of constantly focusing on the good of the team as a whole, I think we're finally setting the standard for teamwork in the Air Force. I just hope the donut sale goes as good as the bowling did."

Although the totals for the donut sale aren't in yet, Kennedy expects the class will raise more money than they need to pay for all their meals. He said all the extra money will be donated to an enlisted charity.

Class 02-C is scheduled to graduate Feb. 7, 7 p.m., at the Charleston Club.